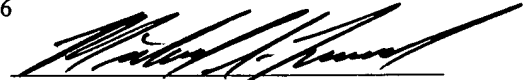


IN THE UNITED STATES ELECTED/DESIGNATED OFFICE
OF THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

Applicant(s): K. Degen
For: STRAP TENSIONER AND
ASSOCIATED GRIPPING JAWS
Int'l Appl No.: PCT/EP2004/052478
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

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Sir:

Please amend the above-identified International Application before entry into the
National Stage before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 35 U.S.C. §371, and prior to
calculation of claim fees.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues
with this application.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this Preliminary Amendment.

Listing of Claims begins on page 3 of this Preliminary Amendment.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this Preliminary Amendment.